Railway Accidents near Samalpatty

1251. SHRI TRILOKI NATH CHATURVEDI
CHOWDHARY HARI SINGH
DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there was a rail accident recently in Samalpatty Railway Station in Tamil Nadu resulting in the deaths of 22 people and injuries to more than 100;

(b) if so, whether any investigation was ordered;

(c) the compensation paid to the relatives of those killed and injured in the accident;

(d) the steps taken by Government to prevent such frequent rail accidents in future; and

(e) whether it is due to negligence of staff, the action taken against the staff?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K. C. LENKA): (a) On 1-6-93, 6635 Kurla-Cochin Express collided with the derailed wagons of a goods train at Samalpatti Station. Consequently, 21 persons died and 44 persons sustained injuries.

(b) Comissioner of Railway Safety, Southern Circle, is conducting statutory enquiry into this accident.

(c) No claims, arising out of this accident, for compensation have been received in Railway Claims Tribunal, Madras. However, a total sum of Rs. 1,53,750 has been paid as *ex-gratia* to the families of killed and to the injured passengers.

(d) Some of the steps taken to prevent such accidents are as follows:—

(i) Intensive inspections of maintenance depots of coaches, wagons and locomotives.

(ii) Monitoring the performance of the staff of the critical safety categories as drivers, guards, station masters, etc.

(iii) Counselling and intensive training of staff in operational categories, specially in proper check-up of their trains *en route*.

(iv) Creating greater awareness among station staff to detect the abnormalities on running trains in time and prompt action to stop the affected trains.

(v) Strengthening arrangements to watch out moving trains for hot axles, etc. from both sides of the train.

(e) Action will be taken after the receipt of the Commissioner of Railway Safety's report.

Electrification of Railway Stations in Bihar

1252. SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a large number of Railway Stations in the State of Bihar have not been electrified so far;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) by when Government propose to electrify all the Railway Stations in Bihar?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K. C. LENKA): (a) to (c) Out of 796 Railway Stations/halts in the State of Bihar, 601 have already been provided with electricity. Of the remaining 195 stations work for electrification of 40 stations has been programmed. The balance 155 stations will be taken up as and when electricity is made available in the vicinity and subject to availability of funds.

Indian Railway Finance Corporation

1253. SHRI TRILOKI NATH CHATURVEDI:
DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) what amount of money of the Indian Railway Finance Corporation is locked up with CANFINA;

(b) whether any modalities have been worked out for the realisation of the above money and with the details thereof; and

(c) what steps have been taken by Indian Railway Finance Corporation to raise its market borrowing for financing the Railway projects?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) An amount of Rs. 445.87 crores (excluding interest) is overdue payment by M/S CANFINA to Indian Railway Finance Corporation (IRFC).

(b) M/S CANFINA and Canara Bank are vigorously being pursued for realisation of this amount. The matter has also been brought to the notice of Ministry of Finance.

(c) The IRFC is presently not required to raise funds for any particular railway project. However, during the current financial year 1993-94, IRFC proposes to go in for public borrowings to the extent of Rs. 900 crores which would form part of Railway Plan finances.

Construction of a Railway Line between Hissar and Narwana

1254. SHRI S. S. SURJEWALA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to link Hissar with Ambala to construct a Railway line between Hissar and Narwana;

(b) whether Government propose to run a train between Bhiwani, Hissar and Chandigarh *via* Jakhal, Narwana and Kurukshetra;

(c) whether there is a proposal to construct a Rail link between Patiala and Narwana to provide rail link to the agriculturally rich areas like Khanauri, Pattran and Samana; and

(d) whether Government propose to link Patiala with Chandigarh by rail, if so, by what time the above proposals are going to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K. C. LENKA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) There is no proposal at present.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Survey for linking Chandigarh with Rajpura has been taken up. Further action would depend on results of the survey and availability of resources.

आजमगढ़-मऊ के बीच की छोटी लाइन को बड़ी लाइन में बदला जाना

1255. श्री राम नरेश यादव : क्या रेल मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या सरकार आठवीं पंचवर्षीय योजना के दौरान आजमगढ़-मऊ के बीच की छोटी लाइन को बड़ी लाइन में बदलने का विचार रखती है ;

(ख) यदि हां, तो इस रेल लाइन को बदलने के लिए कितनी धनराशि मंजूर की गई है ; और

(ग) इस लाइन को बदलने का काम कब तक शुरू किया जाएगा ?

रेल मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री के० सी० लेंका) : (क) से (ग) जी हां, 23-7-93 को आधारशिला रखी गई है । वर्ष के दौरान योजना आयोग की सहमति प्राप्त करने के बाद यह कार्य स्वीकृत किया जाएगा तथा इसके बाद निर्माण कार्य शुरू किया जाएगा । इसकी अनुमानित लागत 50 करोड़ रुपये होगी ।

Cancellation of Palghat-Mangalore Link Express Train

1256. SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) what are the reasons for cancellation of Palghat-Mangalore link express;

(b) whether it is a fact that with the cancellation of this train, great inconvenience is being caused to daily office goers to Malabar Coast; and

(c) whether Government have received any memorandum from the travelling public requesting for the restoration of the train, if so, what action has been taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K. C. LENKA): (a) and (b) 6683/6684 Palghat-Mangalore Link Express has not been cancelled. However, 2625A/2626A New Delhi/Palghat-Mangalore Mangala Express has been replaced by a full train between Nizamuddin & Mangalore with changed timings and number. Timings of 526 Mangalore-Cannanore Passenger has been revised to serve the commuters.

(c) Yes, Sir. Representations have been received to run an additional train to the erstwhile timings of 2625A Mangalore/Palghat-New Delhi Mangala Express. This demand has been examined but not found feasible.

रीवा-बघवार-ब्योहारी खंड का निर्माण कार्य

1257. श्री अजीत जोगी :

श्री चौधरी हरि सिंह : क्या रेल मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :